

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 1. (previously amended) A method for providing incentive award information to a customer,
2 said method comprising:

3 obtaining customer information of a customer from an input device;

4 transmitting said customer information to a remotely located host computer,
5 wherein said host computer locates incentive award information associated with said
6 customer information;

7 in response to the receipt of a scanned product code at said input device,
8 transmitting said scanned product code from said input device to said host computer;

9 determining within said host computer whether or not an immediate purchase of
10 a product associated with said scanned product code qualifies said customer for an award
11 based on said located incentive award information;

12 in a determination that an immediate purchase of a product associated with said
13 scanned product code qualifies said customer for an award, transmitting information
14 related to an opportunity for receiving said award from said host computer to said input
15 device and displaying said information related to said opportunity for receiving said award
16 on said input device.

1 2. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said method further includes

2 in a determination that an immediate purchase of a product associated with said
3 scanned product code does not qualify said customer for an award, determining whether

4 or not an immediate purchase of said product places said customer within a predetermined
5 range to win said award; and

6 in a determination that an immediate purchase of said product places said customer
7 within a predetermined range to receive said award, transmitting information related to
8 said predetermined range to receive said award from said host computer to said input
9 device, and displaying said information related to said predetermined range to receive said
10 award on said input device.

1 3. (previously amended) The method of Claim 2, wherein said method further includes
2 receiving a confirmation of a purchase of said product at said input device.

1 4. (previously amended) The method of Claim 3, wherein said method further includes
2 updating said incentive award information within said host computer only after the receipt of said
3 purchase confirmation.

- 5. cancelled
- 6. cancelled
- 7. cancelled
- 8. cancelled

1 9. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said input device is a portable input device.

1 10. (original) A system for providing incentive award information to a customer, said system
2 comprising:

3 an input device for obtaining customer information from a customer;

4 means for transmitting said customer information to a remotely located host
5 computer, wherein said host computer locates incentive award information associated with
6 said customer information;

7 in response to the receipt of a scanned product code at said input device, means
8 for transmitting said scanned product code from said input device to said host computer;

9 means within said host computer for determining whether or not an immediate
10 purchase of a product associated with said scanned product code qualifies said customer
11 for an award based on said located incentive award information;

12 in a determination that an immediate purchase of a product associated with said
13 scanned product code qualifies said customer for an award, means for transmitting
14 information related to an opportunity for receiving said award from said host computer
15 to said input device and means for displaying said information related to said opportunity
16 for receiving said award on said input device.

1 11. (currently amended) The system of Claim 10, wherein said system further includes

2 in a determination that an immediate purchase of a product associated with said
3 scanned product code does not qualify said customer for an award, means for determining
4 whether or not an immediate purchase of said product places said customer within a
5 predetermined range to win said award; and

6 in a determination that an immediate purchase of said product places said customer
7 within a predetermined range to receive said award, means for transmitting information
8 related to said predetermined range to receive said award from said host computer to said
9 input device, and means for displaying said information related to said predetermined
10 range to receive said award on said input device.

1 12. (original) The system of Claim 11, wherein said system further includes means for
2 receiving a confirmation of a purchase of said product at said input device.

1 13. (original) The system of Claim 12, wherein said system further includes means for
2 updating said incentive award information within said host computer only after the receipt of said
3 purchase confirmation.

1 14. (original) The system of Claim 10, wherein said input device is a portable input device.